

SUSANNE PICKERING, MPH, MS, OTR/L, CHES
CAPTAIN, USPHS

CAPT Susanne Pickering retired in October 2008 with 22 years of dedicated service to the United States Public Health Service. CAPT Pickering began her career with the National Institutes of Health in 1987 and retired with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Public Health and Science. CAPT Pickering has served for many agencies throughout her vast career including NIH, SAMHSA, ATSDR, CDC and DHHS Office of the Secretary.

CAPT Pickering began her USPHS career with the NIH as the Senior Occupational Therapist in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. There she conducted independent and collaborative clinical research and treatment for NIH research protocols. In 1991, she was assigned on a detail from SAMHSA, the DC Commission on Mental Health Services serving first as the Occupational Therapy Supervisor and then as the Clinical Therapies Training and Education Director. In 1997 she was assigned to SAMHSA as the Public Health Advisor, Special Programs Development Branch and as the Project Officer, Emergency Services and Disaster Relief Branch. In 1998, CAPT Pickering became the Senior Health Educator for the Agency for the ATSDR, Division of Health Education and Promotion. In 1999, she was assigned as the Senior Program Management Consultant for the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Her CDC positions included: WHO Consultant for STOP Polio (and Measles) Team to Ghana, Liaison for the CDC/AMA First National Congress on Public Health Readiness, Senior Program Management Consultant/VAERS Project Officer, Infectious Disease Workgroup and Senior Program Management Consultant Officer. CAPT Pickering was assigned as the Regional Women's Health Coordinator for Region IV with the DHHS Office of Public Health and Science and retired from that position in October 2008.

CAPT Pickering completed her Bachelor of Science from University of Maryland in 1976, a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical in 1983, and a Master of Public Health from Emory University in 2004. CAPT Pickering has earned a Graduate Certificate in Health Care Management and Public Health, along with a Certificate in Gerontology. She completed a Graduate Course in Humanitarian Assistance and holds a Certified Health Education Specialist Certification.

CAPT Pickering has deployed on 12 missions. These included the World Trade Center in 2001, the DHHS Secretary's Command Center for the 2002 Olympics, and the 2004 hurricane response in Florida. She also served as Director, Rapid Deployment Force 3 Ancillary Service Branch 2006 - 2008. In recognition of her dedication as an officer, CAPT Pickering has received 12 Commissioned Corps Honor Awards along with 8 Commissioned Corps Service Awards. In 2004, CAPT Pickering was presented with the DHHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service and the CDC Healthier Worksite Group Honor Award.

Through leadership, consultation, and direct patient care, CAPT Susanne Pickering has provided a positive impact on the health and well being of Americans and other peoples abroad. It is with great honor and appreciation that the Therapist Category recognizes CAPT Pickering for her distinguished career.